

A NEW COMBINATION IN OSMANTHUS LOUR. (OLEACEAE) FROM

THE CAUCASIAN REGION

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Osmanthus decorus (Boiss. et Bal.) Kasapligil, comb. nov.

Phillyrea decora Boiss. et Bal. in Vilmorin-Andrieux Suppl. Cat. Fleurs de Fleine Terre (1867); Schneider, Illustr. Handb. d. Laubholzkunde 2: 788 (1912); Rehder, Man. Cultivated Trees & Shrubs 757 (1927) - P. laurifolia Hort., Gard. Chron. Ser. 2, vol. 20: 494 (1883) - P. medwedewii Sredinski, Liesn. Zhurn. S. Petersb. Obshch. Estesty. 7: 173 (1876); Trautvetter, Act. Hort. Petrop. 9: 13 (1884); Dippel, Laubholzkunde 1: 138 (1889); Shishkin et Bobrov (edit.), Flora of the USSR, 18: 375 of English Transl., Jerusalem (1967). - P. vilmorinensis Hort., Gard. Chron. Ser. 2, vol. 20: 494 (1883). - P. vilmoriniana Boiss. et Bal. ex Boiss. Fl. Or. 4: 37 (1873); Hooker f. in Bot. Mag. 111: t. 6800 (1885); Kruessmann, Handbuch d. Laubgehölze 2: 204 (1962); Grossheim, Flora Kavkaza, Akad. Nauk USSR, Baku 7: 200 (1967).

Osmanthus decorus is an evergreen shrub ranging from one to four meters in height. It produces abundant suckers from base, resulting in a broad conical habit. The young twigs are brownish green becoming gray upon aging. The coriaceous, shiny leaves are 4.5 - 16 cm. long and 1.3 - 6 cm. wide, varying from ovate - lanceolate to oblong-obovate in outline. The leaf margins are mostly entire and revolute but the leaves developing in shade are distinctly serrulate. The juvenile leaves of the basal suckers, however, are distinctly serrate. The venation pattern of the leaf blades is brachidromous, a condition similar to the foliar venation of O. fragrans Lour. and O. heterophyllus (G. Don) P. S. Green. The secondary veins on both sides of the primary vein repeatedly branch and anastomose forming loops which gradually diminish in size towards the leaf margins. On the other hand, the pattern of foliar venation in the genus Phillyrea is camptodromous in which the secondary veins curve slightly and disappear within marginal reticulums.

The length of the petiole in Osmanthus decorus varies from 10 to 28 millimeters. It has an adaxial groove throughout its length. The main vascular bundle in the petioles of O. decorus and O. heterophyllus is accompanied by two accessory bundles while such accessory bundles are absent in the petioles of Phillyrea latifolia L. and P. angustifolia L.

The white to cream colored flowers of O. decorus are borne in cymose fascicles with drooping pedicels just as in O. fragrans, the type species of the genus. In Phillyrea latifolia and P. angustifolia, the greenish yellow flowers develop in cymose racemes

which are erect with well-developed mechanical tissues in their peduncles and pedicels.

The type specimen of Balansa's collection from northeastern Turkey is in Paris. My collection of this plant (No. 3875 a, Aug. 28, 1964) comes from Hatila Valley, near Artvin in northeastern Anatolia. According Shishkin and Bobrov, it grows along the forest margins in western and southern Transcaucasia up to an elevation of 1800 meters.

Osmanthus decorus (Boiss. et Bal.) Kasapligil 'angustifolius' is the only cultivar. It is distinguished by its very narrow leaves which are 1.5 - 7 cm. wide and 8 - 12 cm. long. This cultivar does not otherwise show any differences, either in vegetative or reproductive organs, from its parent species.

I wish to thank Mrs. Ashley Card William (Mills College 1968) who prepared the illustration and Dr. Rino Bacigalupi of the Jepson Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley for reading the manuscript.

Legends for the plate:

Osmanthus decorus (Boiss. et Bal.) Kasapligil

A- Fruiting branch with opposite leaves and axillary clusters of drupes; B- Enlarged flower with the stamens adnate to a short corolla tube; C- Enlarged stamen showing the twisted anther during the dispersal of pollen grains; D- The surface view of endocarp with converging ridges; E- Face view of the seed with reticulate seed coat; F- Longitudinal section of the seed showing the straight embryo in relation to bony endosperm; G- The spatulate, straight embryo with radicle nearly equal to the cotyledons in length.

